

**Pacific Business Group on Health Statement on the Supreme Court Decision
On the Affordable Care Act**

June 28, 2012

PBGH and its employer members are pleased the Court has settled this issue; employers appreciate clarity so that we can plan for the future. With the legal issue settled, now more than ever we must focus on solutions that reduce costs and improve quality in health care – this is the biggest and more important mountain and we have yet to climb it. The status quo is unsustainable; care costs too much and quality is too variable. Employers are looking for solutions to help bend the trend of rising health care costs, to help us get higher value care for every dollar we spend.

The Affordable Care Act expands coverage, helping level the playing field so that those without insurance may now have access to coverage and care. New entities like state health insurance exchanges provide an important opportunity not only to expand coverage, but to drive improvements in quality and affordability in health care.

When more Americans have health insurance, everyone wins. Under the current health care system, employers and employees typically pay more -- studies say 3 to 9 percent more -- for their health insurance to offset the cost of caring for the uninsured.

With this decision behind us, we strongly encourage federal and state leaders to continue to develop programs modeled after -- and in concert with -- private sector initiatives to promote quality and affordability. PBGH and its member companies have been leaders in several of these innovative initiatives, and we look forward to continuing to play an active leadership role, focusing the conversation on promoting value. In many cases we will be sharing these tested models as best practices for state exchanges and Medicare to replicate.